

# Spanish Pass Diversion (MR-14)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 2004    **Project Area:** 1,580 acres

**Approved Funds:** \$1.1 M    **Total Est. Cost:** \$13.9 M

**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 433 acres

**Status:** Engineering and Design

**Project Type:** Water Diversion

## Location

The project is located south of The Jump on Grand Pass near Venice in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

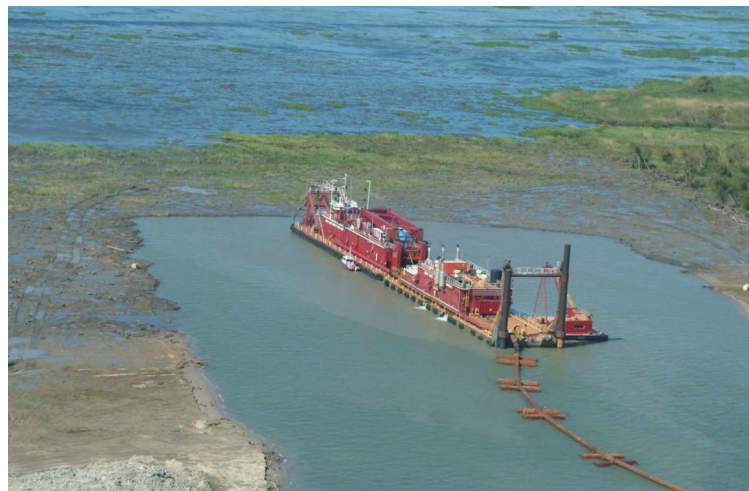
## Problems

Marsh in the project area is not receiving sediment and is converting to open water. The principal hydrologic changes in the area are caused by the dredging of canals for the Venice Oil Field, roads, and other infrastructures. These changes have caused Spanish and Red Passes to be cut off from the influence of the Mississippi River, thus starving the area of fresh water, sediments, and nutrients. These processes have resulted in the loss of more than 3,900 acres of fresh marsh and swamp.

## Restoration Strategy

The primary goal of this project is to gain emergent marsh to the maximum extent possible by diverting river water and sediments into an otherwise open water environment.

The project involves constructing a diversion channel capable of diverting 7,000 cubic feet of water per second from Grand Pass (a tributary of the Mississippi River) into the large open-water receiving area shown on the project map. The construction of the 1,300-linear-foot diversion channel and its containment levees will necessitate placement of a bridge at Tidewater Road, which is included in the project's budget. Outfall management measures will be evaluated and incorporated to increase benefits to aquatic habitats in the system.



The construction of a diversion channel for a similar project, West Bay Sediment Diversion (MR-03), is shown above.

## Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved engineering and design funding at their January 2004 meeting. The project delivery team has been assembled, and a kickoff meeting and site visit was held in March 2004. The work plan was submitted to the CWPPRA Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee in April 2004. The project delivery team is in the process of obtaining right of entry to collect survey and water elevation data.

This project is on Priority Project List 13.

*For more project information, please contact:*



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

**Federal Sponsor:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans, LA  
(504) 862-1597



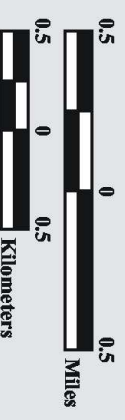
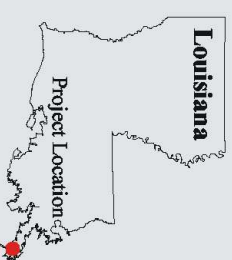
**Local Sponsor:**  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-7308



# Spanish Pass Diversion (MR-14)

-  Containment Levee\*
  -  Diversion Channel\*
  -  Project Boundary
- \*denotes proposed features

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Map Produced By:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Wetlands Research Center  
Coastal Restoration Field Station  
Background Imagery:  
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle  
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